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# Scandinavian Centre News

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Vol. XIX No. 25 484-1007

If undelivered return to  
17614 - 107 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1G8

DECEMBER, 1981

## The Glory of Christmas



**W**hen it became known that the Son of God was born to Mary, all bowed down to worship him. The Wise Men set forth on their journey, for to them alone had the Star miraculously appeared. It guided them to where Jesus lay. There they presented their regal gifts and adored Him.

**T**he awesome wonder of Jesus' holy birth and the lesson of His life will forever enlighten the hearts and minds of people everywhere. As all join to celebrate in the exultant spirit of this hallowed season, we extend best wishes and heartfelt gratitude to our many cherished friends.

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I now receive the paper from:

- Scandinavian Centre (Shareholder)
- Danish Society
- Icelandic Society
- Vasa Lodge
- Finnish Society
- Sons of Norway
- Some other source

## Scandinavian Centre News

is produced and published by the Scandinavian Centre Co-Operative Association Limited — 14220 - 125 Avenue (Yellowhead Trail), Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 3C2.

The deadline for material to be published will appear in each preceding month's issue, and copy should, whenever possible, be submitted typewritten and double spaced.

Cost of advertising is \$3.00 per column inch.

The Scandinavian Centre News is available to its members and members of Scandinavian groups, societies, organizations, associations or clubs at a cost of \$5.00 for the ten issues published commencing in September of each year. Alternatively, any such group may purchase their total requirement of newspapers at a cost of 20¢ per paper per issue.

Non-members may subscribe to the Scandinavian Centre News at a cost of \$6.00 for the above time period.

Any subscriptions, advertising, payment, change of address or other correspondence should be addressed to:

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## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

### PREFERRED SHARES —

The deadline is now past for subscriptions for preferred shares, and we have had a great many letters returned marked 'moved - address unknown'. In the next issue of this paper we will publish a list of shareholders for whom we have no address in the hope that some of our readers may be able to give us some of the correct current addresses.

We hope that those of you who have subscribed will be patient with us, as we have a great many share certificates to make up, and you may not receive yours until into the new year. We will do our best to get them out as quickly as possible.

### SHARE SALES —

Our most sincere thanks to those of you who have shown your interest and given us your support by buying more shares.

### BUILDING PROJECT —

We have narrowed down possible locations considerably, and



## ICELANDIC 'JOLA-SVEINAS' (YULETIDE LADS)

by Ninna Campbell

These Icelandic 'Santas' were first mentioned in the "Ballad of Gryla" in the 17th century. Gryla was an ogre supposed to feed on bad children, and used to frighten them. Her husband was Leppaludi, and they were the parents of these 'Yuletide Lads', who were either nine or thirteen in number according to an old nursery rhyme.

They were to come down from the mountains, one each day, until Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day the first one returns up the mountain. For that pattern, thirteen fits better, since the last one leaves on the Twelfth Night. Their names are:

1. Sheep-Cot Clod
2. Gully Gawk
3. Shorty
4. Spoon Licker
5. Pot Scraper
6. Bowl Licker
7. Hem Blower
8. Skyr Gobler
9. Sausage Swiper
10. Window Peeper
11. Door Sniffer
12. Meat Hook
13. Candle Beggar

They were first regarded as ogres, but over the years have changed and are now considered to be friends of children.

## THE SONS OF NORWAY FREELOADERS



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HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON



# FINNISH FOOTNOTES



by Anja Sahuri

Finnish Society dancers performed at the Westin Hotel during their Scandinavian Food Fair recently. Pirkko Karvonen was also there with a display of weaving and paintings as well as her spinning wheel, the operation of which she demonstrated.

Belated congratulations and best wishes are extended to Aino Ketonen and Dr. David Tsujikawa who were engaged recently.

A surprise birthday party was held on Oct. 24th in honor of Riku Vesaniemi who celebrated his 50th birthday that month. Many friends came to wish him happiness on this special occasion and fun was had by all. Gift and flowers on behalf of everyone was presented by Arvo Ruuth and Toini Virtanen. Best wishes to you Riku.

A Hallowe'en masquerade dance was held on Oct. 31, 1981 at Britannia-Youngstown community hall. While the attendance was not very large, all those who were there had fun. Pasi and Briitta Karsten, Judy VanEs and Dick Sahuri were the lucky winners with their costumes. Riku Vesaniemi won the door prize.

The Annual Meeting of the Finnish Society of Edmonton was held on Nov. 9, 1981, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Sahuri. During the meeting, Pentti Sipari was elected again to the position of President of the Finnish Society. Other members of the new executive are Pasi Karsten, Markku Erkvaara, Pauli Vanhala, Anneli Thurlin, Anja Sahuri, Elmer Kankkunen, Urho Leino and Jaakko Thurlin. After all the formalities were over, the meeting was adjourned while the old executive held their meeting.

The Adult Christmas party will be held on Dec. 19, 1981 at Britannia-Youngstown Community Hall, 15927 - 105 Avenue, starting at 7 p.m. Bring a small un-named gift to Santa's bag. Tickets at the door at \$10.00 each. Items for Bazaar are welcome.

The Children's Christmas party will be held on Dec. 20, 1981 at the gym of Concordia College, 7128 - Ada Blvd., starting at 2 p.m. Please bring a named parcel for your child.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.**  
**HAUSKAA JOULUA JA ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA KAIKILLE.**

by Bob Burt

Those election night shivers were seen at the Captain's Cabin on Nov. 12th. With a fair membership in attendance, the meeting was turned over to Doug Peterson, head of the Nomination Committee. Then started that well-known Norwegian Railroad.

The New Executive to take over for the new year: President: Ken Domier; Vice-President: Kaare Askildt; Secretary: Alan Letendre; Treasurer: Vic Elverum. (Looks like an all-Torske-Klubben takeover, that's participation!). The Financial Secretary — not filled — to be named. Social Directors: Gail Peterson and Kay Olafson; Cultural Director, running for her 13th year, Astrid Hope (our only Hope); Counselor: Janette Burt; Sports Director: Per Nielsen; Trustee: Fred Nielsen; Marshall: Harry Huser; Assistant Marshall: Kay Olafson; Publicity: Bob Burt; Inner Guard: Bernie Olafson; New Member Liason: Gary Johnson; News Letter: Bea and Harry Huser; Historian: Janette Burt; Musician: Shirley Morsch; President of Unger Venner: Tom Haugen. Installation of the new Executive is to be held January 23rd, the place to be announced, but there will be music by the Freeloaders, plus canned

music by Harv Haugen.

Christmas party to be held December 13th (Sunday afternoon) at the Captains Cabin at 2:00 p.m. A Christmas program is planned, to be followed by lunch, elves and goodies.

Ken Domier reported on the successful Leif Erikson party; at least he says we broke even on the deal. What a party!!!

Members of the Cultural group (Astrid Hope, Harry Huser, Janette Burt and others), participated in an International Christmas, sponsored by Dept. of Food Services, at the Hub Mall, 9106 - 112 Street; Nov. 23 through to the 26th. They displayed crafts of various countries, Christmas motifs, cooking, handicrafts and culture. It was a busy week for all participants, and through this venue Norwegian arts, together with Danish and Finnish as well as culture were seen and displayed.

## B \* I \* N \* G \* O!

As is the custom on Election night of Solglyt Lodge, Bingo was played again this year. Harry Huser and Roy Sundby did the honors by calling the games. Prizes were donated by members of the Club, Companies solicited, and articles made or bought for the occasion. A vote of thanks goes to all those

who made the evening a great success through (thought and deed) getting all the prizes together.

Gail Peterson won the first and 16th games: a cake and a set of books. Anne Johnson took home the Freeloader's record "We Remember Norway". Helen Wozny - a big winner - won 2 bottles of wine and a turkey. Mrs. Edith Johnson won a candle, while Orla Tychsen won tickets to the hockey game. Sherri Hill (Bea's daughter) won a diary. Jan and Bob Burt won a can of mixed nuts and (one of Harry's) chip-carved jewel box.

Betty Broen took home one of Harry Huser's decorative pin; Bea Huser won a China Tray and a History book of Canada. Dorothy Sundby was the proud winner of a Turkey, and Doug Peterson of an Atlas. Astrid Hope took home a bottle of wine, as did Sally Byrstik. Selma Domier was thrilled to win the Norwegian Silver Spoon. Shirley Morsch went home with a pound of Coffee.

It was one exciting night! Roy Sundby called numbers till his voice gave out and Harry took over. The prizes were quite well distributed among those present.

Following the Bingo, a delightful lunch was served, with coffee and all kinds of goodies. All in all it was a most successful evening.

## "DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO THIS IS?"



SIGGIE



## RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP



KIM PEDERSEN

Our warmest congratulations to Kim Pedersen on winning a Travel Alberta and Alberta Hotel Association Scholarship by achieving a mark of 91% in Chef Education at N.A.I.T.

Kim was an invaluable member of our kitchen staff, and we wish him a bright and prosperous future.

## ELECTION NIGHT JITTERS

### SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

I HEREBY OFFER TO PURCHASE ..... shares in the SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE

CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED, at the par value of FIFTY (\$50.00) DOLLARS per share.

I enclose herewith the sum of \$ ..... and agree to pay the balance as follows:

.....  
(the full purchase price to be paid before the expiration of one year)

No presentation or guarantees other than those contained in the Prospectus filed by the Scandinavian Centre Co-operative Association Limited have been made to me as an inducement to purchase the said share(s).

DATED at ..... in the Province of .....

this ..... day of ..... A.D. 19 .....

Purchaser's Signature .....

Witness .....

The following information is for use only in determining programs and compiling statistics as they relate to our shareholders. If you wish to leave all or any questions blank, please do so.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Full Name ..... Age .....

Address ..... Telephone No. ....

..... Postal Code .....

Do you belong to one of the five Scandinavian Societies? ..... No .....

If Yes, which one .....

Ethnic Origin ..... Occupation .....

## CULTURAL CORNER

by Astrid Hope,  
Cultural Director,  
Solglyt Lodge,  
Sons of Norway

The Scandinavian Food Fair held at the Terrace Restaurant of the Westin Hotel from October 13th to November 1st was very successful. So much so that they would like to repeat it next year.

On behalf of the Cultural Department of the Scandinavian Centre, I would like to thank everyone who participated; each group went all out to make it a splendid affair.

Our Viking, Pentti Sipari, looked impressive as usual with the Beefeater doorman! The dormant Saga Singers came alive, and in one month there were twelve singers to put on a great pro-

gramme, and the Finnish dancers performed with excellence every time. And what can I say about the Freelancers? Even the piano danced! The displays were superb, and the bunad show on the last evening was a most colourful climax to the whole affair.

Mange Takk!

This is only a small sample of what we could do at our NEW SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE!

On November 9th the Freelancers entertained at Canterbury Court Senior Citizen's Residence (where Astrid works). They responded well and have asked them to come back after the New Year.

Special baking was served with coffee following the programme.

## WINTER GAMES, HERE WE COME

by Bob Burt

Per Nielsen has not been just sitting around waiting for something to happen! When he does something he does it up big. Winter Games are scheduled for Edmonton March 5-6-7th with registration Friday night at the Mayfield Inn.

The executive organizer, Per Nielsen, is supported by Ken Domier and Stan Johnson doing the registering. Wally Broen is in charge of Finances; Gun Espeland is the secretary. Keith McKay will be in charge of transportation. Members in charge of the various events include: Curling: Al Letendre; Bowling: Robin Skarbo; Skiing: Verner Steinbru; Whist: Bob and Janette Burt. What a team!

From here on in it will be practise, practise, practise, to get into the games — 'You picks your sport and does your best'. Deadline for all entries is February 15th — even if you're just coming.

The invitations are out, and the 1982 Winter Games are GO!!! The largest entry ever is expected, as we now have six clubs in Alberta, and by games time we should have three clubs from Saskatchewan: Radisson, Outlook, and Saskatoon.

There will be bowling at the Bonny Doon Lanes and curling at the Sportex. With all these lanes and ice available we will start later and finish earlier. Skiing competitions will be held at Goldbar, where the course will be set out and the trail ready (if snow is available?). Whist will be played off at the Mayfield Inn - real handy. The banquet will be set for Saturday evening at the Inn, and Sunday Brunch will be served at a nearby Community Hall, yet to be named.

I'm getting excited already and it isn't even Christmas yet. All I have to do is sit and watch card games; but I think I'll somehow be out and about taking pictures at the events as well.

All is ready; all that is necessary is to get those teams together and fill in the entry forms. With Edmon-

ton as host, anything can happen, so lets get cracking. It'll be fun, fun, fun!! to meet old friends again.

*In Norway, Sweden, Denmark, or Finland, Christmas is a feast of light and warmth in the house, of crackling logs in the fireplace, of flickering candles in the Christmas tree and wreaths, of warmth and pleasure and of groaning tables that all but collapse under the weight of the food heaped on them. Baking begins weeks in advance, and different kinds of breads, often in the ancient, traditional forms of wreaths and sun rays are a particular speciality. In remote farms people brew Christmas beer and distill akvavit. Lutfish go into their wooden tubs and pigs and geese are killed. And when the great season arrives on Christmas Eve, the table is finally laid for twelve days of feasting. Traditional Christmas dishes are lutfish and rice porridge, ham, braised goose filled with apples and served with red cabbage, liver paté, spicy sausages, head cheese and cookies and cakes without end. The Norwegians are fond of spareribs served with sauerkraut; the Danes always expect goose; the Swedes and the Finns prefer ham, braised and prepared in a pastry shell. For drink there is foamy beer or Glögg, a steaming, hot concoction made with wine, brandy or akvavit, and fragrant spices. In Norway it is served with thin pancakes made from rye flour and wrapped around slices of goat cheese.*

## CHRISTMASTIME.

by Anne Sahuri

Christmastime -  
holiday time.

Time to meet people -  
time to greet friends.

It's time for happiness and  
laughter -  
hollyhock and tinsel -  
glimmer of decorations,  
and the beautiful Christmas  
tree.

And what's under it?  
All kinds of goodies,  
new toys and dolls and books.  
Children of all ages -  
like those and much more.

Christmastime -  
holiday time.  
Time to meet people -  
time to greet friends.  
It's the time for good cooking  
overeating and such promises  
as losing weight and stopping  
smoking.

Oh, well! Maybe next year!

It's time for giving gifts -  
thinking of those less  
fortunate.

Helping others and being kind.  
Sending cards and Christmas  
letters.

Christmastime -  
holiday time.  
Time to meet people -  
time to greet friends.

## THERE'S SNOWTIME LIKE NOW IN NORWAY

Norway's snow country is like nobody else's. Here, where skiing got its start, winter's a way of life, a time for fun and the wringing out of Jack Frost the drops of delight that make eyes sparkle and spirits soar.

From now until spring, Norway has enough snow business to keep the novice and expert occupied day and night. The coming winter's highlight is the World Ski Championship to be held in Oslo from Feb. 18 through Feb. 28. Scene of this world-class event is Holmenkollen, famous for its skyscraping ski jump. The new Holmenkollen Hotel will serve as official headquarters for skiers from around the world.

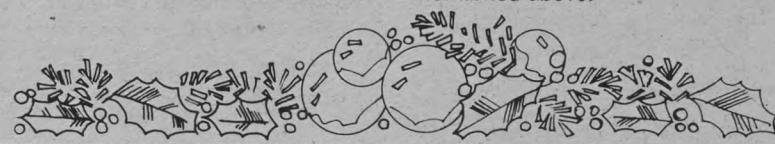
Oslo's winter welcome is warm in many ways. Six of the largest hotels are offering a special treat to weekend visitors.

On Jan. 3, in Frogner Park, the very heart of Oslo, the Monolith Ski Race pushes off. There's an international 15 km cross-country race for men and a 10 km race for

women. The races wind their way along trails dotted with the sculptures of the celebrated Gustav Vigeland whose giant monolith is the park's centerpiece. Great skiing and great sculpture in one sweep are a unique combination.

Aside from Oslo's overbrimming schedule, other winter events in Norway worth the traveler's attention are the Lillehammer Ski Festival (Jan. 15-16), the Voss International Downhill Competition (Feb. 25-26), the Voss Jazz Festival (middle of March), the Birkebeiner 55 km race at Lillehammer (March 21), and the unique "Ridder Week", a 25 km cross-country ski race for handicapped people at Beitostolen (March 20-27).

There's snowtime like now for Norway, and the Norwegian-Swedish Tourist Board, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019, can furnish information about the events and packages mentioned above.



## SCANDINAVIAN KITCHEN CORNER

### Swedish liver paté

#### Leverpastej

2 loaves

1 pound pork liver  
1 quart water  
1 tablespoon salt  
1 pound bacon  
4 anchovy fillets  
1 teaspoon margarine or butter  
1 tablespoon finely chopped onion  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon white pepper  
3 eggs  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
2 tablespoons cold water  
2 cups heavy cream  
1/4 pound bacon slices, if desired

In 2-quart bowl, soak liver in water and salt about 2 to 3 hours; drain. Put liver through fine blade of meat grinder, alternating with 1 pound bacon strips and anchovies. In small skillet melt margarine; sauté onion in margarine until transparent. Add salt, pepper, eggs, cornstarch mixed with water, and cream. Beat with fork until smooth. Line two 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pans with greased aluminum foil or slices of bacon. Put 3 1/2 cups mixture into each pan; cover with aluminum foil. Place pans in large baking pan; fill to a depth of 1" with hot water. Bake in a moderate oven (350°) about 1 hour or until knife inserted near center shows no pink meat or juices. Chill well. Unmold. Serve in slices on bread or lettuce leaves.

### Liver paté in aspic

#### Leverpastej i gelé

2 loaves

1 recipe liver paté  
4 beef bouillon cubes  
3 cups boiling water  
4 envelopes unflavored gelatin  
1 cup cold water  
2 hard-cooked eggs, sliced

Prepare liver paté, chill well; unmold. Remove bacon slices, if used. Dissolve bouillon cubes in boiling water. Soften gelatin in cold water; dissolve in hot bouillon. Pour about 1/8" gelatin mixture into each 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pan. Arrange egg slices in an attractive pattern in gelatin. Allow to chill in refrigerator or over ice cubes until set. Place liver paté on layer of eggs and gelatin. Pour remaining gelatin mixture over and around paté. Cover and chill until firm, at least 4 hours. Loosen carefully, dip into hot water, unmold onto serving platter.

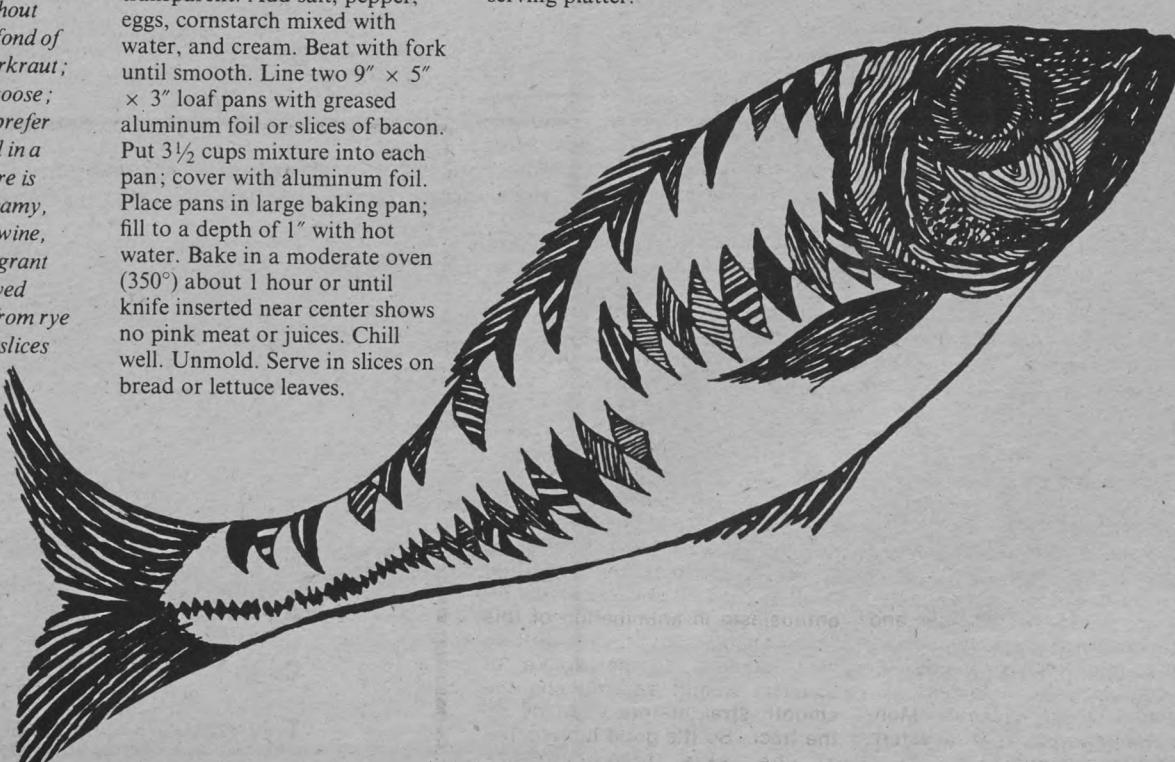
### Danish herring salad

#### Sildesalat

6 servings

1 (1 pound) jar pickled schmalz herring, meat removed from bones, cut into 1/2" cubes  
4 medium, diced, cooked potatoes  
1 cup diced pickled beets  
1 cup diced dill pickle  
2 medium tart apples, peeled and diced  
1 tablespoon finely chopped onion  
Dash white pepper  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
Lettuce leaves

Combine all ingredients. Taste and add salt, if needed; chill. Serve cold on lettuce leaves, garnished, if desired, with parsley and sliced hard-cooked egg.



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# ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

by Ninna Campbell

The 1981 Annual Meeting was held at the Kinsmen Field House conference room. The minutes of the 1980 meeting were read and adopted, and a report of the year's activities was given by President Solli Sigurdson. Events included the Christmas Party, Thorralbot, Tombola, Markerville Picnic, Heritage Days, and participation in the Scandinavian Food Fair at the Westin Hotel.

The Society donated \$200.00 to the Icelandic Language Camp at Husavik; \$200.00 to Logberg-Heimskringla; \$50.00 towards the Markerville Picnic.

Leif Oddson moved that the Society subscribe for the number of Preferred Shares for which it was eligible. Seconded by Shirley Sigurdson. Carried.

The Kinsmen Field House has been booked for the Christmas Party on December 6th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Club Mocambo has been booked for 1982 Thorralbot on February 27th.

The following were elected to the 1982 executive:

Solli Sigurdson  
Harold Halldorson  
Ninna Campbell  
Chris MacNaughton  
Sam Thorkelson  
Margaret Duncombe

Welcome to new members Kristjana Jones, 201, 96 Grosvenor Boulevard, St. Albert, Alberta. Kristjana hails from Hecla, Manitoba.

Gus Roland has moved to Hardisty Nursing Home, 6420 - 101 Avenue; his new phone number is 465-5632.

Violet Gagnon of Calgary spent a few days visiting in Edmonton with Sam and Laura Thorkelson. Vi is Laura's sister.

Garth, Linda and Ian Ross are holidaying in Hawaii.

Gertie Johnson is enjoying good health - she is now at the Good

Samaritan Care Centre, 10530 - 56 Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\*

Audrey Anderson's mother, Ena Bjarnason, was a welcome visitor at John and Audrey's home in October. Ena lives in Foam Lake, Saskatchewan.

\*\*\*\*\*

Herb and Rosemary Moon will be moving to Ottawa in December. Our very best wishes go with you in your new home, Herb and Rosemary!

\*\*\*\*\*

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Brinki Gudmundson on the loss of his father.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vera Stewart of New Jersey, U.S.A., was visiting at the MacPhersons in October. She had previously been in Regina attending her daughter's graduation at the University of Regina. Vera is Lorne's sister.

\*\*\*\*\*

Arni MacPherson is enrolled in the Faculty of Fine Arts (Performing Arts Program) at the University of Alberta. Only 16 students are accepted in this program on the basis of an audition. Arni is the son of Lorne and Lillian MacPherson.

\*\*\*\*\*

Karl Gunnarson graduated with top marks in his class at flying school. Congratulations Karl!

\*\*\*\*\*

Harold Halldorson's brother, Mike Halldorson from Chico, California, stopped in Edmonton en route to Winnipeg and North Dakota. He visited Pat Pettigrew and family in Victoria (Harold and Helen's daughter) and Erling Bjornason and family in Vancouver, before coming here.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy 25th Anniversary to Gunnar and Shirley Thorvaldson of Whitehorse, Y.T.

To all our readers —

Gledileg Jol og  
Farsaelt Nytt Ar!  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

## IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG AGAIN

by Bob Burt

It certainly was Youth Night at Torske Klubben on Nov. 3rd at Ottewell Community Hall. The place filled in a hurry and extra tables had to be set up quickly. Nearly one hundred turned up to get together and enjoy the sociability of the club. Ladies of Sons of Norway were the volunteers who provided the Torske, served the meal, and filled the akvavit glasses. 'What a difference a Dame makes'. The ladies certainly provided a meal fit for a King.

Following the usual introductions, an election of Officers for next year's executive was held. The C.N.R. might pass us by, but the Old Norwegian Railroad was in action that night. The new boss is Kaare Askildt; supporting him as Secretary is Robert Johns; while good old George Stewart will hold down the position of Treasurer for another year. Bar volunteers include Don Sjolie, Keith Lillevolden and Wayne Sundby; they can fall back on Stan Johnson for advice. The new office of Program Director will be filled by Dennis Lindberg. For advice and guidance to assure the smooth running of the club, and what it stands for, Ken Domier and Chris Hale will be available. Auditors for the New Year will be Chris Dryer and Roald Enokson. This new slate of officers will take the helm at the January 4th meeting.

Boss Sev Berge will be in charge of the December Ladies' Night program planned for Dec. 8th, to be held at Fulton House; 6204 Fulton Road. Notices have been received together with a new listing of all members. It will be a gala affair with two hundred-plus eager and looking forward to being there. Guest speaker will be Sons of Norway International President, O. Marshall Moy, of Missoula, Montana. He knows what Western Hospitality is all about.

It was a Torske Klubben full pro-

# CALGARY'S "SONS OF NORWAY" FORM TORSKE KLUBBEN

## CARL PETERSON IS BOSS

by Sigurd Sorenson

Wednesday, November 18th, was Charter Night for the second Torske Klubben in District 4, Sons of Norway. About 60 members gathered at the Viking Restaurant for a most historic and enjoyable occasion.

### 19 MEMBERS ATTEND:

On the invitation of Valhalla Lodge, nineteen members of Edmonton's Torske Klubben attended: Gary Johnson, Jarl Omholt-Jensen, Anders Anderson, Pete Hansen, Helge Nilson, Keith Lillevolden, Chris Hale, Sig Sorenson, Sven Jensen, Glen Finstad, Allen Letendre, Douglas Anderson, Ken Domier, Sevlin Berge, Harry Huser, Wally Broen, Per Nielsen and Roald Enokson.

Emil Dorin, District representative from Red Deer Lodge, Sevlin Berge, Boss of Torske Klubben, Edmonton, and Ken Domier, past Boss of Edmonton Torske Klubben.

ben, each took their turn acting as Master of Ceremonies and revealing to the Calgary members how a Torske Klubben operates.

### FIRST CHARTER-MEMBER:

Sevlin Berge very ably initiated the first charter member of the new club — Erling Swanberg. Brother Swanberg, a veteran member of Valhalla Lodge, was made Honorary Member of the new club.

Sig Sorenson gave a brief history of the Edmonton Club and how a Torske Klubben fits into the objectives and fraternalism of Sons of Norway.

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

Chris Hale, professor of Scandinavian Languages at the University of Alberta, gave the history of the very successful language and cultural summer camp sponsored by the Edmonton Torske Klubben each year. Through his efforts the Sons of Norway Foundation has granted two scholarships to Alberta students this year — another

first for Alberta!

Gary Johnson, District Four Director, was in attendance and spoke briefly; Edward Ness, International Director, was also present.

### FIRST BOSS:

Carl Peterson, President of Valhalla Lodge, volunteered to be the first Boss of the newly-founded Calgary Torske Klubben.

Per Nielsen, incoming Sports Director for Solglyt Lodge, spoke of the annual sports weekend sponsored each year by Sons of Norway, and announced that this year the place is Edmonton and the dates March 12, 13, and 14.

### GUEST SPEAKER:

Anders Anderson spoke briefly, and ably introduced the guest speaker for the evening — Jarl Omholt-Jensen of Evansburg, Alberta. Brother Omholt-Jensen gave a very humourous talk on 'Alberta Crude', followed by excellent slides depicting skiing and ski champions from all over the world.

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LODGE ACTIVITIES - business meeting, officers' meeting, installation, language class, rosemaling class, Christmas party, ski-trip (or bus trip, outing), torsk/lutefisk dinner, fair booth, queen/princess contest, leikering/folk dance group, program (special speaker, crafts display, musicians), drill team, singing group, Junior Lodge activity, U.V. group activity, lodge float (or parade entry), trip to Norway (a group getting on or getting off plane or sight-seeing as a group -- *not just scenery*).

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - kretstevne, bowling/golf tournament, business session at a District convention, District Board meeting, District conducted seminar, District conducted youth/language camp.

We already have some slides of lodge halls but could use more -- 1 interior, 1 exterior. Also needed are some shots taken at an International Convention.

Acceptability of slides for a given subject will be based on technical quality and how well they "tell the story."

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Hardanger display with Astrid Hope and Cindy Berg in Hardanger costume



Susanne Balslev with pottery demonstration (Danish)

# "SCANDINAVIAN



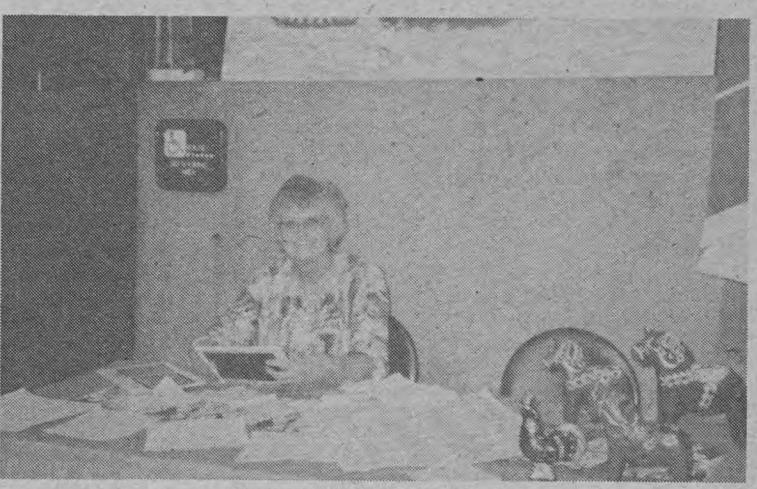
Our friendly Viking — Pentti Sipari with befeater doorman, Westin Hotel



Astrid Hope and Janette Burt



Torhild Stokkland with Klostersom display (Norwegian)



Gertie Holmgren with Naversom display (Swedish)



Janette Burt with Norwegian stitchery



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Astrid Hope with Norwegian knitting display



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# THE MOSAIC OF NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS

by Astrid Hope

'Mosaic', according to the dictionary, is a kind of inlaid work formed by an assemblage of small pieces of various tesserae disposed on a ground in such a manner as to form designs - so it is with 'Jul'.

Jul was first initiated and celebrated by the Vikings, and many different customs and traditions have been added since. Winter and summer solstices were the cause for great celebration in the Nordic countries.

In December, when cold and snow finally made their entry and enfolded the land, the country grew noticeably dark, and for a period of twelve days there was no evidence of the sun. The Vikings, who lived in harmony with nature, rested, ceasing their daily chores, and celebrating with food and drink.

The winter solstice, or 'Jul', which is related in scaldic verse, was celebrated in honour of Freja, the Viking goddess of nature and the earth. The Jul festival was dedicated to rest after the work of autumn was done - like so many pagan celebrations, a fertility celebration at which everyone drank 'til aar og fred' - to a good harvest and peace. We hear of a King Heidrek who had his largest boar led into his halls at Juletide. The source is a late one, but we have no reason to doubt that he was honouring the fertility goddess, whose boar, Gullinborsti, had such gold-gleaming bristles that the night all around the animal was

made bright as day! With his hand on his boar, King Heidrek made his vows for the coming year.

In today's festival there is always a billy-goat among the Jule animals. There he stands, made of straw, or lies as a cookie among spice cakes. In former centuries he often brought gifts. Sometimes he was played by two boys under a goatskin with horns, one of the Nordic's favourite pranks throughout the centuries.

Later there were serious efforts to forbid the so-called 'Jule-goat games'. They believe it must have originated with a Thor-goat, allowed to live on in peasant Jule customs just as Thor's hammer in the bridal bed. Stripped of their heathen titles, the Christian church could sanction both customs, and this is where the 'Julebukk' originated (similar to our Hallowe'en).

But for the Vikings it was all a huge family festival - family both living and dead. Today only a small remnant of the traditional inclusion of the dead remains in a toast to "absent friends", and All Souls and All Saints Day has taken over this aspect of the festival. In the days of the Vikings, though, a magnificent Yule table was set up for deceased relatives, a steam-bath was readied for them, beds were freshly made, and the peasants slept on straw pallets on the floor so that those 'from outside' could use the bedrooms, take delight in all the luxuries, warm and satiate

themselves. They came out of the mounds, naturally covered with earth, or if they died at sea, they came wet and dripping. They sat with the living evening after evening, for as long as the feast lasted.

We hear most often of exceptional cases when the departed, quietly presaging misfortune, dried their clothes by the fire and went back to their graves without having said a word.

The Christian church turned sharply against the pagan form of communal life, but did not succeed in exterminating it entirely; all they could do was banish it into the realm of superstition and reprehensible belief in ghosts. For centuries a long line of spirits and elves, trolls and ancestors, filed past during the Jule and Christmas feasts. The little farm goblin with beard and red cape grew, not quite one hundred years ago, into today's present-giving Jule-nisser, or Santa Claus.

Thus Christian, peasant and pagan customs are interwoven to give us our 20th Century modern Christmas season.

During this Juletide season many traditions still come to the fore - and Viking hospitality expands. There is the oft-repeated saying that the Christmas spirit must not be allowed to leave the house, and the only way to guarantee that it will not, so the belief goes, is to offer every visitor, even the stranger who comes to the door, some little tidbit to eat. No one would be so witless as to refuse, and thus break the spell by

carrying the Christmas spirit away with him! Who could resist any of the twelve different kinds of baking the modern housewife boasts? Var san god!

Customs vary from district to district, with interesting holdovers from by-gone days adding colour to the Juletide festivities, some of which have rubbed off on other areas.

Food also pays homage to tradition, and is determined in great part whether people live inland, by the sea, or in a valley. It could centre around 'ribbe' (fresh cod or lutefisk) or 'faar'. Christmas dinner usually began with popular rice porridge, but this is now more likely to be served as a festive dessert at the end of a meal, plain or with fresh berry sauce. It contains one almond, and the one lucky enough to find it will have a prosperous and good year, as well as being the recipient of a marzipan pig as a reward.

Another tradition was to link hands and sing and dance around the Christmas tree after the festive meal was done. The tree blazed with flickering candles and was decorated with hearts, baskets, straw Julegoat, and stars. Today flags are also added.

Farm animals also shared in the festivities as they munched extra portions of their favourite feed. And the Christmas elf, the nisse, whom many people believed lived in the barn, was always provided with a bowl of porridge on Christmas Eve. Should the bowl be empty on the next morning, good

fortune would prevail for the following year. The 'Nisse' still has his place in the festivities, and his important image is cut out of paper to be used as a prominent decoration.

Nor were the birds forgotten! On the farms it was the custom to put out grain for them - an invitation for the birds to join the festivities. The 'Julenekk' custom is still carried out very ceremoniously before the family sits down to their dinner. A sheaf of grain is hung on a tree or pole outside the home.

More recent, and becoming much of a tradition too, at other holiday times as well as at Christmas, the Norwegians faithfully participate in skiing expeditions in their mounts; it is not uncommon to have a cabin there. Again - Norwegians are very close to nature.

Christmas in Norway is an antidote to darkness - their way of breaking winter's hold. Nowhere is it celebrated quite so warmly or with so much light and food - with such a remarkable blend of centuries-old pagan rites and Christian rituals - for as long as twenty days!

Glade Jul og et godt nyt aar!

(Excerpts taken from "The Norsemen" by Count Eric Oxenstierna)



AN OUTING by horse-drawn sled is always a popular pastime in Norway.

(Photo from Norwegian National Tourist Office.)



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